

investment parameter; and

(c) presenting an associated actuator for each of said filter conditions for selective actuation by a user.

43. The method of claim 42, wherein the filter condition and associated actuator of each display element is presented in close proximity thereto.

44. The method of claim 42, wherein said filter condition is a parameter limiter.

45. The method of claim 42, wherein said display elements are bars.

46. The method of claim 42, further comprising the step of (d) presenting another histogram that includes another plurality of display elements that represent said investment parameter filtered by a selected one of said filter conditions.

REMARKS

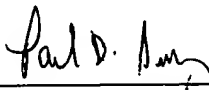
Claims 1-46 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that i is any integer from 1 to n . Newly presented claim 41 is a rewrite of the second claim 30 and is necessary to eliminate a double claim numbering error. Claims 42-46 are newly added and are supported by Figs. 24-26 and pages 18-20 of the specification.

Consideration of this application is respectfully requested at an early date.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the present amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully Submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Application, Serial No. 09/389,939

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Amended) User interactive apparatus for conducting a search of a data base containing data for a universe of financial instruments, said search including the performance of n filter passes of said data for said universe, said apparatus comprising:

a computer system including a processor, a memory, a viewing screen, a computer input device and a financial instrument search procedure, said financial instrument search procedure operating said processor to conduct said search of said data base in response to user operation of said computer input device, wherein prior to an i^{th} filter pass, a plurality of filter criteria for said financial instruments are presented on said viewing screen for user selection of at least one of said criteria as a proposed filter condition by operation of said computer input device, where i is [an] any integer from 1 [and] to n , and wherein a population chart for said selected proposed filter condition is presented on said viewing screen, said population chart showing the population of said financial instruments in different categories for said proposed filter condition as an aid to the user for selecting one or more of said filter criteria for said i^{th} filter pass.

31. (Amended) The apparatus according to claim [30] 41, wherein there is a different histogram for each investment parameter, said investment parameters being selectable by user operation of said computer input device for selecting said histogram for presentation on said viewing screen.